

## AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

### **Listing of the Claims**

1-55. (Cancelled)

56. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, wherein the polymeric material has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

57. (Cancelled)

58. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, wherein the polymeric material is poly-(L-lactide).

59. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

60. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

61. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.

62. (Cancelled)

63. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a polymeric microparticle ~~surface modified~~ surface-modified or coated with N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof, which has adsorbed thereon a ~~and an adsorbed onto the microparticle~~ biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human.

64-65. (Cancelled)

66. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[62]] 63, wherein the polymeric microparticle comprises a polymeric material has a molecular weight of 100kDa or more.

67. (Cancelled).

68. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 66, wherein the polymeric material is poly-(L-lactide).

69. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 63, wherein the biologically active agent is capable of generating the protective immune response against tetanus, anthrax, diphtheria or *Yersinia pestis*.

70. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 63, wherein the biologically active agent comprises a combination of the V antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof, and the F1 antigen of *Y. pestis* or an immunologically active fragment thereof.

71. (Previously Presented) The composition of claim 63, further comprising one or more chemical compounds selected from the group consisting of a polyamino acid, a vitamin, a vitamin derivative, a clathrate, a complexing agent, a cetrimide, an S-layer protein, a methyl-glucamine, a cationic polypeptide, a cationic polyamino acid, and a quaternary ammonium compound.

72. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a biologically active agent capable of generating a protective immune response in an animal or a human and an immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or a salt thereof, wherein the biologically active agent and the immunostimulant amount of N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof

are encapsulated in microspheres or microparticles comprising a polymeric material of a molecular weight 94 kDa or more, and wherein the N-carboxymethyl chitosan or the salt thereof is present in the pharmaceutical composition in an amount of from ~~0.15~~ 0.1 to 10% w/w.

73. (Currently Amended) The composition of claim [[52]] 72, wherein the microspheres or the microparticles are on average from 0.1  $\mu$ m to 10  $\mu$ m in diameter.